(168)

33

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 6 MAY 1982

RDS or XDS [illegible]

TS AUTH. [illegible]

EXEMPTION(S) [illegible]

DECLASSIFY [illegible]

EXEMPT [illegible]

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS [illegible]

Honorable Carl T. Curtis
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Curtis:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of May 31, also signed by Senator Hruska and Congressman Denney, regarding the views of Miss Anne P. Carstens on the military coup d'etat in Greece.

The replacement of the constitutional government of Greece by a military regime has caused us deep concern and required us to examine our relationship with Greece in the light of the new circumstances. In the course of this process we are reviewing our program of military assistance and have suspended shipments of certain major items.

We have noted that King Constantine has expressed his desire that the nation return to parliamentary government as soon as possible. Following King Constantine's announcement on May 21 that a committee would be formed to revise the constitution, the Greek government has now named that committee which is to complete its work within six months. However, we are awaiting further concrete evidence that the new Greek government will make every effort to reestablish democratic institutions which have been an integral part of Greek political life.

If you desire further information, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

GW

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

POL 23-9 GREECE

MICROFILMED BY RS/R

NEA/GRK:IMDunn:mem 6/12/67
x5898 RS 14664

Clearances:
NEA - Mr. Rockwell
H - Miss Manger

DECLASSIFIED

ROMAN L. HRUSKA
NEBRASKA

CARL T. CURTIS
NEBRASKA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ACTION
is assigned to
NEA

May 31, 1967
(Rec'd 6/6/67)
w/o encl.

Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from a constituent who raises some penetrating questions concerning the military take-over in Greece.

It would be appreciated if your Department would respond to the points made in the letter.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Roman L. Hruska, U. S. S.

Carl T. Curtis, U. S. S.

Robert V. Denney, M. C.

Enclosure ✓
(rec'd 6/7/67)

POL 23-9 GREECE

14864

(2)
6/7/67

One government measure which caused some difficulty was the perforating of voters' identity cards at the time of voting, a measure which had been taken to satisfy the CU in lieu of their demands for marking the fingers of voters with indelible ink. This, plus the cross checking of names with the electoral lists, delayed the voting process considerably, with the result that balloting, which should have ended at sundown November 3, continued well into the early hours of November 4 in many places throughout the country. This meant also that some persons were able to hear the first returns coming in while they were still standing in line to vote. Fortunately, for the voter, the weather throughout the nati was good.

CU Gains at ERE Expense

Certainly the most striking aspect of the election was the success of the CU in obtaining 42% of the national vote. Prior to the elections there had been a general consensus that Caramanlis would fall below his 1961 figure of 50%, and it was believed that this fact, plus the workings of the 1963 electoral law, would add up to considerably fewer than 1961's 176 seats in Parliament. However, at the same time it was generally assumed that Caramanlis would at least obtain a plurality of the national vote and that he would win somewhere around 150 seats in the Parliament. Certainly there were few, other than perhaps Party Leader Papandreou himself, who believed sincerely that the CU would emerge first in the elections and it was because of this belief that ERE would be the number one party that the CU maneuvered for an electoral law which more closely resembled a straight proportional system. Perhaps the most frank presentation of the CU's view of its own chances was contained in an October 27 article in the pro-CU To Vima which forecast that ERE would lose anywhere from 27 to 38 seats in the elections or, in other words, that ERE would win not less than 140 seats. (The Embassy has already reported the surprise express in all circles at the CU victory A-499, 11/5/63.)

The extent of the CU victory is demonstrated by the fact that the Center increased its vote over 1961 in all but six of the country's 55 electoral districts. The traditional areas of Liberal-Center strength, such as the nomoi of Crete, went overwhelmingly for the CU. In all four of the Cretan electoral districts the CU received a majority of the total vote, running from approximately 71% in Rethymnon and Lasithion, to about 64% in Chania and Iraklion. In Northern Greece, the Center cut into the ERE strength and won 39% of the total vote of the area, as compared to 29% in 1961. (For a detailed report on the election results in Northern Greece, see Thessaloniki CG A-46, 11/21/63.) Another area of surprising CU strength was that of Central Greece, where the party ran far ahead of its 1961 level and took pluralities in almost all districts.

In the traditional conservative stronghold of the Peloponesos, the CU also made gains but at a reduced level, and ERE managed to retain majorities in four of the area's electoral districts--Argolis, Laconia, Arcadia, and Messina. The CU made its greatest gains in this area in Elias, where the CU took 56% of the vote (1961 figure: 46%), Corinth (44% compared to 33% in 1961), and in Papandreou's home district of Achaia (49% to 40%). ERE also lost in this area to the Markezinis Progressives who took an average 5% of the vote in this region, most of it apparently from ERE.

F. W. CARSTENS
ANNE F. CARSTENS

TELEPHONE 223-31

CARSTENS AND CARSTENS
ATTORNEYS
213 STEINMEYER BUILDING
BEATRICE, NEBRASKA 68310

May 24, 1967

RECEIVED

1432 MAY 1967

ROMAN L. HRUSKA

Honorable Roman L. Hruska
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Hruska:

When the military took over the government in Greece, I was very disturbed because this was one country in which it seemed that the United States had been effective in helping to promote democratic principles.

As you well know, I am fairly unknowledgeable about world affairs and I rely on you and your staffs to be aware of what is going on and to take such action as should be taken.

For many years Helen Petrow Vournas, formerly of Fremont, Nebraska, has been a close and dear friend of mine. I have the highest confidence in her integrity and know she keeps in close touch with Greek affairs. She recently sent me a reprint from The Washington Post of May 9, 1967, which was an open letter of her husband, George C. Vournas, regarding the present situation in Greece. The statements made in this letter seem a shocking indictment of our present failure in Greece and I am saddened that our military supplies furnished to Greece to maintain a free government are now being used to maintain and to provide the take-over by the military.

This is the sort of thing that sickens one about the whole aid program and as far as I see, our country has made no effective protest about the Greek situation.

At a time when our boys are serving and dying in Viet Nam in an effort to save something there, we should not turn our backs on a country where we have already invested tremendous

resources to keep it free and let it go down the drain without trying to salvage it for the free world. It should be considerably easier to do something effective for Greece where the people themselves already have had the experience of a democratic form of government, even though they have a king, than to do something in Asia where this concept is much more difficult to grasp.

Very truly yours,

Anne P. Carstens

APC:lih

cc: Honorable Carl T. Curtis
Congressman Robert Denney

DECLASSIFIED